

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

25X1A

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Indochina/Thailand

DATE DISTR. 28 OCT 49

SUBJECT Travel Controls for Chinese Travellers Between
 25X1A Saigon and Bangkok [REDACTED]

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NO. OF ENCLS.
 (LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO [REDACTED]

SUPPLEMENT TO
 REPORT NO.

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1. A Chinese who wishes to travel between Saigon and Bangkok must have a Chinese passport issued by the Chinese Consulate General in Saigon. In order to obtain a passport, an individual must be vouched for by a business firm in Saigon of good reputation. Time involved in the obtaining of a passport varies from ten days to two weeks. Payment to members of the consulate staff ("tea money") usually ranges from 3,000 to 5,000 Indochinese piasters.
2. After obtaining the passport, a Chinese must apply for a "certificat de depart". On the back of the "certificat de depart" is a congregation certificate which must be signed by the chief of the congregation (Cantonese, Swatowese, Fukien, Hainanese, etc.) to which the individual belongs. Before the congregation chief will sign the certificate, the prospective traveller must be guaranteed by a business firm of good reputation in Saigon and place a bond of between 2,000 and 3,000 piasters. Thus the local chief of congregation is as powerful as the Chinese Consul.
3. Having obtained his "certificat de depart", the Chinese can obtain his exit permit by depositing his identity papers at the office of the Surete Federale. The "certificat de depart" is divided into two specifically marked sections. Upon leaving Saigon the Surete retains one section of the certificate and the individual traveller retains the other. The traveller, upon his return, must present his section of the certificate in order that the Surete may match it with theirs to verify its authenticity.
4. After obtaining an exit permit, the Chinese traveller must apply for an entrance visa at the consulate of the country he wishes to enter. In addition he must have the usual vaccination certificates in order to purchase air passage. When there are a great number of travellers, a Chinese may have additional trouble in obtaining a ticket. This difficulty can usually be overcome by bribes to clerks handling the assignment of tickets and plane space.
5. At the time of his departure the traveller must declare the amount of currency (piasters, foreign money, etc.) that he is taking with him. The customs agents at the Saigon Airport are very painstaking, but they can be easily bribed.*

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6. The Saigon-Bangkok plane lands at Pnom-Penh, where the customs officials are relatively stricter than those at Saigon.

* Comment. Although there are many obstacles in the path of a Chinese wishing to make a trip outside of Indochina, most of them are mainly financial. If the Chinese traveller happens to have important friends in the police, his difficulties are greatly reduced. The larger the bribes offered the shorter the time necessary to obtain the proper exit papers. A rich Chinese Communist would not find any difficulty in making a trip. Communism is not a handicap, only poverty.

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